

## CLAIMS:

1. A method for delivering content to a user, comprising the steps of:  
providing a data bit-stream having a base layer data bit-stream and at least one enhancement layer data bit-stream;  
storing the base layer data bit-stream and the at least one enhancement layer data bit-stream separately in a storage device;  
5 offering the stored content at different quality levels;  
receiving a request from the user for the content at a specified quality level;  
downloading to the user the base layer data bit-stream and however many enhancement layer data bit-streams are needed to produce the specified quality level.  
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2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the data bit-stream is a video bit-stream.
3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:  
15 encrypting the base layer video bit-stream using a first encryption;  
encrypting each enhancement layer video bit-stream using different encryption.
4. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:  
20 adding quality information to each video bit-stream specifying the quality level of the individual video bit-stream, wherein the storage device reads the quality information so as to download the video content with the quality level specified by the user.
5. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:  
25 lowering the available quality level in the storage device by deleting at least one enhancement layer for the video content when the user does not select the video content within a predetermined period of time.

6. The method according to claim 2, wherein the storage device determines the specified quality level based on the number of different quality layers available for the selected video content.
- 5 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the base layer data bit-stream and the at least one enhancement layer data bit-stream are encoded prior to being stored.
8. An apparatus for delivering content to a user, comprising:  
means for providing a data bit-stream having a base layer data bit-stream and  
10 at least one enhancement layer data bit-stream;  
storage device for storing the base layer data bit-stream and the at least one enhancement layer data bit-stream separately;  
means for offering the stored content at different quality levels;  
means for receiving a request from the user for the content at a specified  
15 quality level;  
means for downloading to the user the base layer data bit-stream and however many enhancement layer data bit-streams are needed to produce the specified quality level.
9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the data bit-stream is a video bit-  
20 stream.
10. The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:  
first encryption means for encrypting the base layer video bit-stream;  
encryption means for encrypting each enhancement layer video bit-stream  
25 using different encryption.
11. The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:  
a quality information generator for adding quality information to each video  
bit-stream specifying the quality level of the individual video bit-stream, wherein the storage  
30 device reads the quality information so as to download the video content with the quality level specified by the user.
12. The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for lowering the available quality level in the storage device by deleting at least one enhancement layer for the video content when the user does not select the video content within a predetermined period of time.

5 13. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the storage device determines the specified quality level based on the number of different quality layers available for the selected video content.

14. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the base layer data bit-stream and  
10 the at least one enhancement layer data bit-stream are encoded prior to being stored.

15. A method for receiving multilayered content which can be displayed at different quality levels, comprising the steps of:

receiving layered content comprising a base layer bit-stream and at least one  
15 enhancement bit-stream;

receiving a selected quality level of display for said layered content;

determining which enhancement bit-streams need to be combined with the  
base layer bit-stream to create the selected quality level;

displaying combination of selected streams on a display.  
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16. A receiver for receiving multilayered content which can be displayed at different quality levels, comprising:

means for receiving layered content comprising a base layer bit-stream and at  
least one enhancement bit-stream;

25 means for receiving a selected quality level of display for said layered content;

means for determining which enhancement bit-streams need to be combined  
with the base layer bit-stream to create the selected quality level;

means for displaying combination of selected streams on a display.

30 17. A storage medium for storing multilayered content which can be displayed at different quality levels, comprising:

means for receiving layered content comprising a base layer bit-stream and at  
least one enhancement bit-stream;

means for storing the base layer bit-stream and the at least one enhancement layer bit-stream separately

means for receiving a selected quality level of display for said layered content;

means for determining which enhancement bit-streams need to be combined

5 with the base layer bit-stream to create the selected quality level

means for downloading a combination of selected streams for display.